

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] The hydrophilic nucleus 44 is porous and is formed of a stable, non-reactive, non-flammable, non-toxic and non-odorous material, such as ~~gas-concrete, formed clay, pumice~~ and/or aggregates. Preferably the hydrophilic nucleus 44 contains as its primary ingredients silica and alumina, with the balance being made up of such compounds as ferric oxide, calcium oxide, magnesium oxide, sulfur trioxide and alkalis. The preferred ratio of silica to alumina is approximately between 55 and 65% to between 15 and 25% and more preferably around 60% to 20%.